

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A communication processing apparatus for executing a communication process via a network, comprising:

a communication unit configured to implement a communication process related to an authentication process according to a predetermined authentication method, the communication process being performed in order to acquire secret information permitted to be disclosed only to devices in a local network corresponding to said authentication method; unique identification information of a communication destination device in said communication process is acquired by data processing at a network layer or lower of an OSI reference model; unique identification information of an authentication partner device is acquired in an extended authentication sequence of said authentication method ~~as data introduced to a packet by~~ upon execution of a an application layer process command at the application layer of the OSI reference model, the application layer process command being provided within a packet of the authentication process that is processed at the network layer or lower of the OSI reference model; said acquired unique identification information of said communication destination device is compared with said acquired unique identification information of said authentication partner device; and based upon a successful match resulting from the compared data, a process is executed to judge whether said authentication partner device is a device connected to a same local network as a local network to which a local device being a communication source device is connected.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The communication processing apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein at least one of said unique identification information received from said authentication partner device is received as processed data generated by an encryption

process or a hash value generation process based on secret information shared with said communication source device.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The communication processing apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein identification information received from said communication destination device is a node unique ID defined in IEEE 1394 standards.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The communication processing apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said communication processing apparatus is configured to receive, as identification information received from said communication destination device, identification information acquired from a PHY communication unit of said communication destination device and identification information acquired by a network communication unit of said communication destination device, and compare a plurality of these identification information.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The communication processing apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein identification information received from said communication destination device is a device address defined in communication standards.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The communication processing apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said communication processing apparatus is configured to receive, as identification information received from said communication destination device, a device address as a source address of a packet transmitted from said communication destination device, and a device address stored in a packet by data processing at an application layer or

data based on the device address at the application layer, and compare a plurality of these device addresses.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A communication controlling method for executing a communication process via a network, said method comprising:

acquiring unique identification information of a communication destination device in a communication process by data processing at a network layer or lower of an OSI reference model, and acquiring unique identification information of an authentication partner device in an extended authentication sequence of a predetermined authentication method ~~as data introduced to a packet by~~ upon execution of a an application layer process command at the application layer of the OSI reference model, the application layer process command being provided within a packet of the authentication process that is processed at the network layer or lower of the OSI reference mode;

performing a matching of said acquired unique identification information of said communication destination device with said acquired unique identification information of said authentication partner device; and

judging, based upon a successful ~~match resulting from the compared data identifying~~ matching, whether said authentication partner device is a device connected to a same local network as a local network to which a local device being a communication source device is connected.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The communication controlling method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein ~~in said~~ acquiring ~~at least one~~ of said unique identification information received from said authentication partner device is received as processed data generated by

an encryption process or a hash value generation process based on secret information shared with said communication source device.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The communication controlling method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein identification information received from said communication destination device is a node unique ID defined in IEEE 1394 standards.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The communication controlling method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein in said acquiring receives, as identification information received from said communication destination device, identification information acquired from a PHY communication unit of said communication destination device and identification information acquired by a network communication unit of said communication destination device, and said comparing processing matches a plurality of these identification information.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The communication controlling method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein identification information received from said communication destination device is a device address defined in communication standards.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The communication controlling method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said acquiring receives, as identification information received from said communication destination device, a device address as a source address of a packet transmitted from the communication destination device, and a device address stored in a packet by data processing at the application layer or data based on the device address at the application layer, and

said matching matches a plurality of these device addresses.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A computer readable storage medium encoded with computer program instructions which, when executed, cause a processor to execute a method of communication via a network, said method comprising:

acquiring unique identification information of a communication destination device in a communication process by data processing at a network layer or lower of an OSI reference model, and acquiring unique identification information of an authentication partner device in an extended authentication sequence of a predetermined authentication method ~~as data introduced to a packet by~~ upon execution of a an application layer process command at the application layer of the OSI reference model, the application layer process command being provided within a packet of the authentication process that is processed at the network layer or lower of the OSI reference mode;

performing a matching of said acquired unique identification information of said communication destination device with said acquired unique identification information of said authentication partner device; and

judging, based upon a successful ~~match resulting from the compared data identifying~~ matching, whether said authentication partner device is a device connected to a same local network as a local network to which a local device being a communication source device is connected.